

At a meeting of the Council of the School of Mines on Monday the president, Sir Langdon Bonython, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, was presented by the members with a solid silver casket, suitably inscribed. The Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor R. W. Chapman, who made the presentation, addressed the following remarks to the president:—"The attainment of your eightieth birthday constitutes such a noteworthy event that your fellow members of the council cannot allow it to pass unhonored. For we who sit on this council cannot but appreciate the fact that for forty out of these eighty years you have given consistent, active, and most helpful service to this school, and during practically the whole time you have, as president of the council, guided its course, which has been onward and upward. The idea of founding in Adelaide a school for training the youth of the State in the scientific knowledge required for mines and industries was put forward at a time when the appreciation of the community of the value of such education was very much less than it is now. If the conception was not entirely due to you it was fostered and encouraged and developed into practical form both by your personal influence and by that of your powerful paper. From its foundation, for forty years, you have helped the school as a member of the council, the most untiring, punctual, and attentive member who ever occupied office, and for all that period your great influence has been exercised freely and wisely for the benefit of the cause of education. We have been fortunate in this State in having many generous benefactors to the interests of education. Amongst those your own name, for your great gifts to the University and to this school, stands very high. But there is one respect in which it stands alone. You have the control of a private enterprise that might easily and profitably absorb the whole of your energies. Yet for the past forty years you have elected to give, in no niggardly or stinted way, personal service for the advancement of methods and facilities for the higher education of the youth of the community. You have not only given money, but you have given service of inestimable value over many years. Your reward has been to see the school, which started with about 300 students in 1889, develop in answer to an ever-increasing demand for the kind of education that it supplies, until it counts over 4,000 students in 1928. In every State of Australia, indeed in most of the countries of the world, there are now engineers and mining men, many of them in posts of great importance, who owe their training to the facilities for education provided at this school under your wise direction. We congratulate you upon having lived to see, in the great work that the school is now doing, the fulfilment of your hopes, and we trust that you will retain the health and vigor to long continue the direction you have so wisely exercised over so many years." The sentiments of Professor Chapman were endorsed by the Hon. D. M. Charleston and the members of the Council. The president, in responding, expressed surprise at the entirely unexpected action of the Council, his sincere thanks for their kindness, and his keen appreciation of the very generous words of Professor Chapman.

THE NEWS

ADELAIDE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1928

EXAMINATION TIME

Important is the month of November for all the leading educational institutions, as well as for candidates who are taking courses in law, medicine, science, arts, dentistry, and other faculties at Adelaide University.

This week the ordeal begins. At the end of the month, after the annual professional examinations have been concluded, hundreds of schoolboys and schoolgirls will be called upon to show whether or not the careful preparation which they have been undergoing in readiness for November will show good results.

Whatever may be said against the examination system, certain it is that it is a means to an end. That end is the education of the trainees.

During the year they have been taught the value and power and virtue of concentration. They have worked hard for months, always with one purpose in view. If they had not this definite aim their studies would become desultory and their intellectual energy would be dissipated.

Last year the percentage of failures in English was so abnormally large that comments in the press by teachers and members of Parliament drew attention to the unusual severity in the marking of the papers.

Unless a cordial feeling exists among teachers and professors who set and mark the papers and award the prizes and valuable scholarships the University must fail in its object.

This year several professors met the teachers in friendly conference. Following the suggestion of those present, one professor called for sets of model papers from various teachers. But it was not the character of the papers so much as the nature of the marking about which complaints had been made.

Professor Darnley Naylor used to say, "The class makes the standard."

While slovenly and careless English is undesirable, it is contended that professors should not expect mature thought and critical judgment from youthful minds. Only by constant and conscientious practice can the young student gain the art of writing good English. Power of facile expression is a gift, but patience and perseverance in trying to attain this must in time reap their own reward.

Teachers, instructors, and taught are looking forward with eager anticipation to the work of the next two months.

ADV. 15-11-28

NUTRITION RESEARCH.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR BRAILSFORD ROBERTSON.

Under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association, Professor T. Brailsford Robertson delivered a lecture on "Nutrition Research in Australia," in the Darling Building at the Adelaide University on Wednesday evening. Mr. G. Wheeldon occupied the chair.

The lecturer, who is in charge of the animal nutrition laboratory and department in Adelaide, and the section of the Commonwealth Bureau for Scientific Research, said the work so far had been largely preparatory and anticipatory. A laboratory had been erected on Victoria-drive as a portion of the accommodation for the department. There were many and diverse problems concerning the sheep farming industry in Australia. It was decided to limit the enquiries at the outset to sheep, and to endeavor to improve the production of wool. If any more profitable industry were found in Australia to take the place of wool-growing, the Empire, if not the whole world, would have to find another country able to carry the hundred million sheep of Australia, which produced one-third of the world's wool, and where they would find that country would be a problem. As to whether they would always need wool, on account of artificial products, it had been found that the latter had stimulated the demand for wool and silk. People who first had the artificial next wanted the real article. They could look upon the demand for wool being maintained at least for the present generation. Good meat-producing sheep were different from those which grew the best wool. The Merino came to Australia from Spain, where it had gone from South Africa, and probably was first cultivated in Rome, and in the time of the ancient Greeks. Eighty years ago the sheepowner was pleased with six pounds of wool per head. Today twice that amount was not exceptional. Wool production was a distinct problem, and arose from two sources. One was the economic and the other the chemical. They carried on wool-growing on land of limited value, and the amount they could afford to spend on sheep for wool or land for sheep was also limited. The chemical problem was a technical one. The lecturer explained the component parts of animal life.

The work of animal nutrition research was being done in the laboratory and on the field. The latter consisted of collecting stations, and materials obtained were sent to the laboratories. Soil and other samples were also sent to the Waite Institute, and the bureau had a flock of sheep at that institution undergoing examination and tests too technical to be carried out at the field stations. Owners assisted the bureau to carry on the work on their property by giving the necessary sheep and land. A field officer was placed in charge of each station. They had already established four. It was intended to have from six to eight stations, and to open a new one when one was closed. They were established in different kinds of country. One of the outstanding problems in Australia was the lack of phosphoric acid in the soils. They had been among the first to make up the deficiency by supplying superphosphates for wheat-growing. The same methods for sheep production had been slower. In parts the deficiency was made up by feeding the sheep with phosphoric acid, and they had yet to ascertain the best way of remedying this widespread deficiency. Another problem was to see that the sheep obtained the cystine necessary to produce the best wool. They were also investigating the proportions of iodine which affected the thyroid glands, and thus the growth of the sheep. They had to determine also whether there was any definite connection between the thyroid gland and the production of wool. They had to examine the mineral qualities of the soil on which sheep were grown and to balance the mineral properties and proportions and counteract the effects of salt or magnesia as these affected the sheep.

NEWS 12-11-28 VICTORIA SQUARE RAILS

Decision Further Delayed

It was decided by Adelaide City Council at its meeting this afternoon to defer consideration of the offer of the University of Adelaide to remove the railings surrounding Victoria square without expense to the council.

The reason for this is to permit of additional time being given Mr. A. W. Pelzer (city gardener) to prepare a report with regard to the remodelling of the square.

NEWS 14-11-28

MOUNT ETNA ERUPTION

Effect of Sun and Moon

TIDAL PULL EXERTED

The flow of lava from Mount Etna is likely to continue intermittently for some time, and to be more pronounced during periods of new moon, according to Prof. Platania, who has been an observer at the volcano for many years.

Discussing this phase of volcanic eruptions Mr. C. T. Madigan (lecturer in geology at the University of Adelaide) stated today that new moon meant high tides, because the tidal pull of the sun and moon was exerted at its maximum on the earth during that period. Although the pull could move water it could not cause any apparent actual movement of the solid crust of the earth.

There were many theories of the origin of eruptions. Some scientists held that there was a liquid layer beneath the hard crust, but that the core of the earth was kept rigid by the tremendous pressure on it. If that were so it would seem possible that the hard crust of the earth would slide over the molten layer.

It was also thought that at the critical depth the potential liquid was kept rigid by pressure, but owing to the variations in tension of the crust of the earth and slight displacements the pressure might be relieved. The material would then tend to liquefy and slope its way upward. That

phenomenon was called intrusion of igneous rock.

There were many intrusions of molten rock into the crust of the earth, which never reached the surface. In some cases, however, the intrusions came out in quiet outpourings through fissures over the surface, as in Greenland. In other cases they intrusions found their way through single conduit and a volcanic cone was built.

The material which reached the surface was usually of a glassy or pumiceous type called lava. Explosive eruptions were due to gasses, mainly steam, in the molten rock. Explosive action, however, usually soon over, but lava would continue to flow for some time, and undoubtedly being in liquid form, the tidal pull of sun and moon would have its effect.

Activity of the flow was therefore likely to be greater during periods of new and full moon than at other times.

ADV. 15-11-28

SCHLICH MEMORIAL PRIZE.

In order to perpetuate the memory of the late Sir William Schlich, K.C.I.E., F.R.S., at one time Inspector-General of Forests to the Government of India, and afterwards Professor of Forestry at Cooper's Hill, College, and later at the University of Oxford, about £1,700 has been subscribed by his friends and admirers with the object of providing some memorial to him to commemorate his great services to the cause of forestry.

Subscriptions were received from various parts of the British Empire and from the United States of America. The question of the disposal of the funds was considered by a committee, which decided that the interest on the sum collected should be paid each year in rotation to different parts of the British Empire and to the United States of America, and devoted to some purpose calculated to further the cause of forestry. The fund has been placed in trust with this object in view. This year payment of the interest, amounting to £75, has been made for the first time. Australia being the recipient. The trustees considered various suggestions as to the form of the memorial, and decided that in the present instance it should take the form of a gold medal to be awarded annually to the best student at the Australian Forestry School, Canberra. An announcement to this effect was made recently at the closing sessions of the Empire Forestry Conference at Canberra, when £75 was handed over to the principal of the school to be invested; the annual interest on this sum will be devoted to defraying the cost of the medal.

NEWS 15-11-28

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

1,381 ENTRIES RECEIVED

Fortnight of Work

The degree and diploma examinations of the University of Adelaide will begin on Monday. With the exception of the examination in education, which by special arrangement is being held on Saturday in Brookman Hall, candidates will be accommodated in Elder Hall. A total of 1,381 entries has been received, and, as many students sit for two or more subjects arrangements have been made for

Adv. 15-11-28.

Mr. A. L. G. Mackay, head of the department of economics at the Adelaide University, who has been granted leave of absence for a year, will leave to-day by the Largs Bay for Britain. He intends to go to Cambridge to do research work in economics, particularly in imperial finance.